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COLONEL JAMES SMITH

of the Conococheague

The First Rebel of the American Revolution

By

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MILLER

Author of

"Good Roads" 1892

"The Copyright of a Map or Chart" 1902

"History of Mount Vernon Place Church" 1940

"Four Old Families of Williamsport, Maryland" 1941

Delivered before
The District of Columbia Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution
on
Washington's Birthday, 1941
at the
Mayflower Hotel

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Conococheague, the first rebel of
the American Revolution

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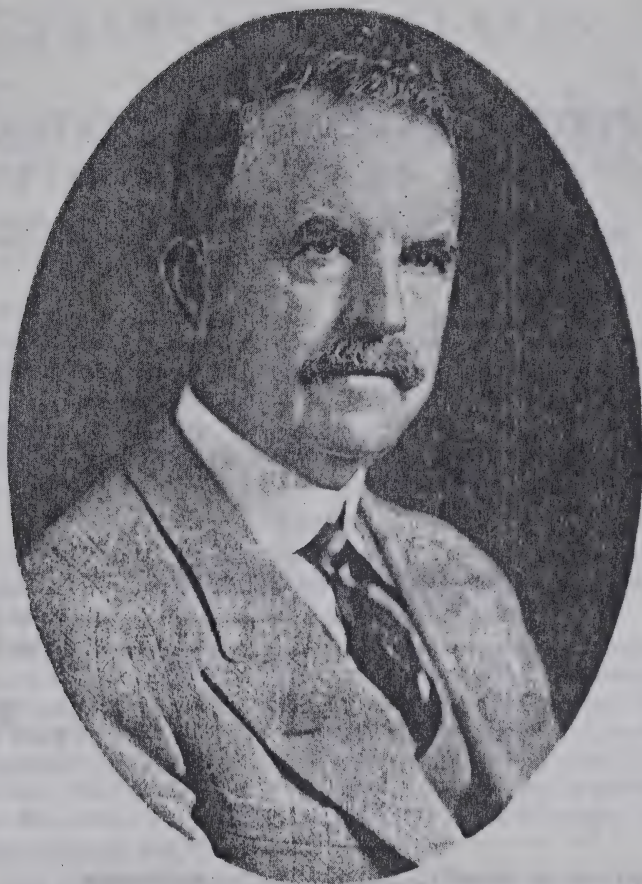
The First Rebel
of the
American Revolution

1847

The New York

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of the



WILLIAM ALEXANDER MILLER

FEBRUARY BULLETIN
of the
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 15, 1941

COMPATRIOTS:

The next meeting of the Society will be the 1 o'clock luncheon on the 22nd, in the Sapphire Room of the Mayflower Hotel. This meeting is always such a pleasant one that we are expecting the usual large attendance. As formerly, the meeting will be called to order at 12 o'clock, (as required by our Constitution) and immediately adjourned until 1, when a seated luncheon will be served, followed by the meeting.

SPEAKER

The speaker for this occasion will be our own Compatriot William Alexander Miller, who will read his paper on "Colonel James Smith of the Conococheague, the First Rebel of the American Revolution".

Compatriot Miller began his career in Western newspaper work and followed this profession for twelve years. On coming to Washington, he entered the government service in the Government Printing Office, later being attached to the office of the Chief of Ordnance of the War Department. Following this, he served for thirty-three years in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Miller was serving as Chief Clerk of the Copyright Office, which position he had held for nine years.

Long a faithful and active member of our Society, he has held the positions of Librarian, Secretary, and Vice President, for several terms each; for many years he was a member of our Board of Management; for twelve years he had charge of our elections; and for sixteen years he was a member of the Joint Committee. Always a willing contributor, older members will recall his "Eulogy of Chaplain Nourse" of twenty years ago.

Fraternally yours,

CLIFTON P. CLARK, *President.*

Mr. President, Guests and Compatriots:

For thirty years I did not miss a meeting of this Society. I am now in my fortieth year in this local Chapter.

All other questions have been discussed, but since very little has been said about the Revolution I have prepared a paper entitled:

"COLONEL JAMES SMITH
of the Conococheague
THE FIRST REBEL
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION."

The first stanza of Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous "Concord Hymn" says:

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world."

In the years 1799, 1834 and 1870, a book was published entitled "*An Account of the Remarkable Occurrences in the Life and Travels of Colonel James Smith*", written by himself. One writer says: "James Smith was the first American to lead a rebellion against the British, to engage in armed warfare with British regulars, to capture a British fort." All this was *ten years* before Concord and Lexington. In addition to the three editions of his "Life", Colonel Smith was the author, among other books, of "A Treatise on the Mode and Manner of Indian War."

In my early youth the elderly members of the family often related to me accounts of the terrible experiences of relatives and neighbors at the hands of the Indians in the valley of the Conococheague, following Braddock's defeat near Fort Duquesne.

Our immortal Washington, employing the Indians' mode of battle in fighting from behind trees, saved a remnant of Braddock's Army. Nine of Braddock's men reached Fort Duquesne, only to be burned at the stake.

At Braddock's conference with the governors in the Carlyle House at Alexandria he would not listen to the practical suggestions of Colonel Washington and others. He was a famous British General and knew all about fighting. He divided his army; one portion under the command

of Sir Peter Halkett marched to Winchester on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and the other, under Colonel Thomas Dunbar, went by Georgetown, Frederick, and the Conococheague on the Maryland side, followed by Braddock. Braddock rode in a great coach and four. By the time he reached Conococheague he was able to realize that American frontier roads were mere bridle paths. He turned across the Potomac and reunited his army at Winchester. The General, who knew it all and would accept no advice, put aside his lumbering coach and straddled a horse for the rest of the journey. When his army met the enemy there was not one of the latter in sight. The English troops were armed with smooth-bore guns and fired in platoons, without taking aim. They could not hit the side of a mountain. Every Indian was behind a tree and armed with a rifle. During the fight Braddock struck a frontiersman with his sword for shooting from behind a tree, as was their wont, and a comrade immediately shot and killed Braddock.

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A short time before Braddock's defeat Indians had captured James Smith of the Conococheague settlement and had taken him to Fort Duquesne, where he was obliged to run the gauntlet. He was stripped naked, and forced to run through a long double-line of warriors and squaws, armed with sticks, clubs and what not. Each struck at him as he ran. He nearly reached the end of the gauntlet when he was knocked out by a club in the hands of a big Indian. He was attended by a French doctor from the fort. The nine prisoners from Braddock's army were brought there and burned at the stake, within hearing of the fort. The terrible screams of the tortured ones haunted James Smith the rest of his days. He was adopted into a tribe in place of a warrior who had been killed, and lived among them for several years.

Hugh Mercer, who afterwards became a famous General in the Revolution, was a surgeon with Braddock. He took refuge from the Indians behind a log. An Indian, with a tomahawk in his hand, stepped on the log and looked all around, but failed to see Mercer. The latter, who had been wounded, lived on the raw flesh of a rattlesnake until he reached his home, near what is now Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

After the defeat of Braddock the Indians overran the frontiers of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia; burning, murdering and scalping. All this within thirty miles of Baltimore and Annapolis.

I was born at Williamsport, Maryland, on the Potomac, at the mouth of the Conococheague. It was often referred to as "the place of the long Indian name".

Some of you may recall that in a former paper, entitled "Personal Experiences in the Early Days of the Wild West", I had considerable about General Lew Wallace and Billy the Kid; I also explained that our family moved to Kansas in 1871, so that I was reared on the Indian frontier. My ancestors had lived in the Potomac region for generations, since 1669. My kin were tortured and murdered by the savages, following Braddock's defeat. My great-great-grandfather, Jacob Snyder, and

wife, were killed by them, and five of their children were scalped alive and left in their burning house. A neighbor was roasted alive and eaten by the Indians, an Indian pudding being made from his head; Jacob Miller and his whole family of seven were murdered; George Folke and family of eight were cut to bits, and the pieces fed to his hogs. Some of the prisoners they ripped open and took out their entrails, burning them before their eyes. The flesh of others was cut, pierced and torn from their breasts, hands, arms and legs with red-hot irons until they were dead. In the case of another one, a pit was dug, then he was placed upright in it, and the dirt replaced up to his neck. He was then scalped and kept there three or four hours in the greatest agony. They built a small fire near his head, which caused him to suffer torments. His brains were literally boiled in his head and his eyes gushed out of their sockets. He endured all this for another two hours before he died. Indians killed Mrs. James Cunningham, my kinswoman, ripped her open, and left her lying in the path with her unborn child beside her. Nine children and their teacher, Robert Brown, were murdered in a schoolhouse on the Conococheague.

On April 22, 1756, Colonel Washington, who had replaced Dagworthy at Fort Cumberland, wrote as follows to Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia:

"The supplicating tears of the women and the moving petitions of the men melt me into such deadly sorrow, that I solemnly declare, if I know my own mind, I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease."

On returning from Braddock's defeat Washington reached the home of his old friend Jones, at Clean Drinking Manor, just beyond Rock Creek Park, so exhausted that he had to rest several days before going on to Mount Vernon.

Pennsylvania erected several small log stockades. Maryland already had a good fort at Cumberland. Washington was commissioned by Virginia to build Fort Loudoun, at Winchester, but Governor Sharp of Maryland built a real fort—Frederick. It is a stone quadrangular fort, covering over two acres. It is twenty feet high; of massive stone walls. Sharpsburg, on the battlefield of Antietam, was named in honor of Governor Sharp, its builder. My great-great-grandfather, Alexander Alexander, a Scotch hero of our Navy in the Revolution, who lived beyond Mercersburg in Pennsylvania, had to take refuge at Fort Frederick with his family on two occasions before the Revolution. The last time they had to remain for over a year. People lived in hundreds of wagons camped at the fort. Indians twice burned Alexander's ripe wheat-fields. His cousin, John Alexander, founded the town of Alexandria, Virginia. During the Revolution prisoners from Saratoga and Yorktown were confined at Fort Frederick. Two other great-grand-

fathers of mine guarded prisoners there at that time. Their names were Andrew Miller and Casper Snyder. Many think it is near the town of Frederick, Maryland, but it is nearly fifty miles from there, on the way to Cumberland. Every son of the American Revolution should visit that fort. It is near Clear Spring, about ten miles west of Hagerstown. Over 700 settlers took refuge at the fort in one year.

Notwithstanding the terrible experiences of the people on her frontiers, long pack-trains, loaded with knives, hatchets, rifles, powder and bullets were allowed to go to the Pennsylvania border for agents to trade with the Indians. Governor John Penn, of Pennsylvania, a distant relative of William Penn, did everything in his power to protect that detestable traffic. The principal shippers in this traffic, which was so obnoxious to the frontiersmen, were Captain Callender and Joseph Spears, of Philadelphia and the firm of Bayton, Wharton & Morgan. Governor Penn and the British commanders of the frontier forts of the State were a unit in this highly profitable business. They cared nothing for the lives of the settlers.

James Smith organized the "Black Boys of the Conococheague". They dressed as Indians and wore green blankets. They were armed with Lancaster rifles, tomahawks and knives. Their faces were blackened with charcoal and grease. On their feet were Indian moccasins which made them almost noiseless. They approached an enemy stealthily and unseen. They fought with two men behind each tree. While one man drew a bead on the foe, the other loaded. My grandfather's Lancaster rifle hangs on the wall of my Den. The Black Boys gave notice that the "God-damned traffic with the Indians must stop"! It was the only way to put an end to the murdering and scalping forays. The wagon and pack trains followed the present Lincoln Highway to the Ohio.

The Black Boys put their threat into action. That was on May 6, 1765. The first fight between Americans and the British regulars was on, and the British retreated. The first blood of the great conflict was shed there. James Brown received a rifle ball through his hip. Brown said he thought he had been kicked by a mule. The British commander said that the damned rascally settlers of the Conococheague had attacked his camp a few miles up the road from Fort Loudon, shot his horses, burned his pack saddles and kidnaped his drivers. He himself had escaped by luck. His teamsters were stripped half naked, tied to trees and flogged by men with blackened faces. As he ran for help he heard the men screaming.

Soon after that Colonel James Smith and 200 of his Black Boys attacked Fort Loudon, near the present site of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. The British commander of the fort was Lieutenant Grant of the 42nd Regiment of Highlanders—the "Black Watch". That was the same Regiment which was fired on, years later, by the embattled farmers at Concord. And it was the "Black Watch" which made the famous

charge when Moro Castle was captured by the British at Havana, Cuba.

Later Colonel James Smith and two or three hundred of his Black Boys attacked Fort Bedford, which was also commanded by a British officer and manned by British soldiers. Of these three fights one writer says: "The first skirmish was fought, not in Massachusetts, but in a backwoods meadow a few miles north of the modern Lincoln Highway, where it passes through the town of Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania. The first rebel blood was shed there, the first American victory was won there, *ten years* before the fights at Lexington and Concord. A British fort was besieged; the kilted veterans of a famous Highland Regiment (the "Black Watch") fired on the rebellious settlers; were fired upon, and were defeated. The British regulars holding the stockaded post of Fort Loudon raised the white flag, surrendered the prisoners and guns they had taken, and marched out under the long rifles of the Pennsylvania and Maryland frontiersmen. Four years later (six years before Ethan Allen stormed Ticonderoga) a band of these same borderers stormed Fort Bedford and took it from the soldiers of another famous British Regiment."

James Smith, the organizer of the Black Boys, was the first rebel of the American Revolution. He came of tough stock. His birthplace, in 1737, was where Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, now stands. It is only a few miles north of Hagerstown, Maryland. It was no place for weaklings. Mercersburg was the old home of General Hugh Mercer, and was named in his honor. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Princeton, and he had the largest funeral Philadelphia has ever seen.

Bedford Springs has long been a famous health resort. There is an immense hotel there, with attractive golf courses and beautiful scenery. For years it was owned by my kinsman, Judge Hartley, a director of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

At the capture of Fort Loudon Colonel James Smith shouted to the traders: "Listen to me! Steady down those horses; bring your leads up forward—all of them; pile them in one place. Take your private property and get out! Get out!"

Captain Robert Callendar and his men obeyed with frantic energy. A writer well describes the scene: "As they tugged at kegs and bales their heads kept turning over their shoulders toward the silent forest, but there was nothing for them to see, except here and there a gun poking its octagonal brown nose out from behind a tree. In an hour Forbes' Road lay empty, but for a great disordered heap of baggage; and the Black Boys emerged to lounge about in the sun, kick bales of trade goods open, and lean on their rifles, while James Smith took out his tinder box and struck a flurry of sparks. The sparks fell into a broken pack of ruffled shirts; brown holes widened; little flames sprang up and licked at the piles of blankets, curled long red fingers around hatchet-handles, and took hold on scalping knives. They danced with a quickening fury—a fury that became a roar. When they died out at

last, knives, tomahawks, musket leads, beads, war paint, shirts, strouds and blankets were a mass of smoking rubber and fused metal. Not until December 16, 1773, would another small group of Americans, in Boston, disguise themselves as Indians, and oppose with violence a traffic they abhorred. The black boys of the Pennsylvania frontier had struck their blow against the trade in murder. It would be eight years before the Massachusetts men struck their blow against the trade in tea."

There was the burning of the "Peggy", loaded with tea, by the band of Annapolis men disguised as Indians.

After the fall of Fort Bedford an interesting story has this to say of Ethan Allen: "On May 10, 1775, he will lead a dawn attack upon Ticonderoga, capture it, and claim the glory of having been the first American to take a British fort. He will be the *second* by six years. The Green Mountain Boys of Vermont will take Ticonderoga without a shot, but they will only do what the Black Boys of Pennsylvania have done this quiet summer morning in 1769."

James Smith was elected a Commissioner for Bedford. He was elected a delegate to the first Pennsylvania convention. When the ninety delegates raised their right hands they took this oath:

"I do swear that I renounce and refuse all allegiance to George III, his heirs and successors, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of the United States of America."

James Smith petitioned the Pennsylvania Assembly, of which he was a member, for leave of absence to lead a scouting party against the British. He collected a party of thirty-six men. They had a fight with the Hessians, captured twenty-two prisoners and a load of officers' baggage, and recaptured a detachment of Washington's Continentals on their way to prison.

Smith applied to the Continental Congress for authority to raise a battalion of marksmen of the frontier, expert in the use of rifles, and acquainted with the Indian method of fighting, to be dressed in their fashion for the purpose of harassing the enemy. The Committee of Safety referred him to Washington at Morristown. The latter emphatically rejected the offer, and immediately proffered a Commission in the regular army. Smith politely said to Washington, "No, thank you".

Such a body of men would have been of great value to the American cause. Washington was now a *gentleman* fighter, and apparently had forgotten that he himself had employed Indian tactics in saving a remnant of Braddock's army and elsewhere. Washington's decision seemed incredible. Colonel James Smith was stunned! The old boys of the frontier were not wanted. He went home, sold all his property, moved to the wilds of Tennessee, and took no further part in the war.

Now something of the men of the region that we have been considering:

Williamsport, Maryland, at the mouth of the Conococheague, my birthplace, was named in honor of General Otho Holland Williams, who lived there. He was with General Daniel Morgan at the battle of Cowpens. After the battle it was noticed that General Morgan had no socks. General Williams had an extra pair and presented them. He was later Adjutant General of Greene's army.

When Congress passed the Act for George Washington to select a site for the national capital it was stipulated that it should be on the east side of the Potomac and between the mouths of the Anacostia and the Conococheague—a distance of one hundred miles. Washington visited Williamsport while considering the site for the capital, and spent the night in General Williams' home. He told my great-grandfather, John Nitzel, a member of the Company of Captain Peter Mantz, of the Flying Camp of the Revolution, that if the Potomac could be navigated Williamsport would be his choice, for the reason that the Blue Ridge would make it easy of defense against a foreign power. John Nitzel's son-in-law, John Hetzer, was in Fort Mchenry in the War of 1812 when the "Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key.

Washington had been anxious to see the capitol building on "Shooter's Hill" at Alexandria, the present location of the great Masonic Memorial. The site finally was fixed at Georgetown, at the head of navigation of the Potomac. It was the result of a compromise by Jefferson, and kept the South from seceding from the Union in 1790.

The Conococheague and the Antietam are parallel streams emptying into the Potomac on the Maryland side, between North Mountain and South Mountain. The valley between these mountains extends on both sides of the Potomac. Jefferson, in his "Notes on Virginia", says "Here was an inland sea, and the waters finally broke through at Harper's Ferry". The Virginia portion is known as the Valley of Virginia, the Maryland portion is called the Cumberland Valley. Men reared here were fighters. I venture to say that no other person has undertaken the task of compiling the facts which I am about to relate. Within a distance of about 100 miles, between the North Mountain and South Mountain, came Washington and fourteen of his generals—wonderful men!

1. DANIEL ROBERDEAU, the first Brigadier General from Pennsylvania. He fitted out two privateers, one of which captured a prize worth \$22,000.00 in silver, which he turned over to the Continental Congress. He operated a lead mine in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for the benefit of the American cause. He was three times elected to Congress. At the close of the war Washington persuaded him to move to Alexandria. On the death of Washington he moved to Winchester, where he died and is buried. Washington had appointed the General's son as assistant engineer, to lay out the national capital.

2. HUGH MERCER, a surgeon with Braddock; killed at Princeton.

3. EVAN SHELBY, father of Isaac, and who lost nearly all his whole command in the killed at Point Pleasant.

4. ISAAC SHELBY, one of the commanders at King's Mountain, the first Governor of Kentucky, and appointed Secretary of War by President Monroe, but declined the office.

5. OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS, Adjutant General of General Greene's Army; distinguished in the battles of Cowpens, Guilford, Hobkirk and Eutaw.

6. WILLIAM DARKE, who was with Braddock, commanded the Hampshire and Berkely Regiments at the capture of Cornwallis; also the left wing of St. Clair's Army at Detroit.

7. ADAM STEPHEN, who was in Braddock's defeat; who was drunk at the Battle of Germantown; and whose command was given to Lafayette.

8. HORATIO GATES (seriously wounded in Braddock's campaign), who captured Burgoyne's Army at Saratoga.

9. CHARLES LEE, next in command to Washington.

10. DANIEL MORGAN, hero of Quebec, Saratoga and the Cowpens. He commanded the celebrated Rifle Corps in the Revolution, and was the military genius of the Revolution.

11. PETER MUHLENBERG, the minister at Woodstock, who announced from the pulpit that "there is a time to pray and a time to fight", as he threw off his priestly robes and stood before his congregation in a military uniform, and three hundred of those present enlisted for the war. Congress has lately appropriated for an equestrian statue of him at Woodstock, Virginia. His brother, Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, was the first Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12. JOHN SEVIER, another of the heroes of King's Mountain.

13. ANDREW LEWIS, who commanded at Point Pleasant, the greatest battle ever fought between white men and Indians.

14. GENERAL WILLIAM CAMPBELL, another of the heroes of King's Mountain, was a native of this valley.

Here also lived Colonel Charles Mynn Thruston, Washington's Chief of Staff.

Washington's adopted daughter, Nellie Custis, spent her last years in this region, and died here. His three brothers and sister lived here. His great benefactor, Lord Fairfax of Greenway Court, lived here. Washington himself spent as much of his life here as at Mount Vernon.

Newton D. Baker, our Secretary of War in the World War, was born here. President Wilson, too, was born in this valley.

Here was born General Sam Houston, the great hero of Texas; the monument at San Jacinto his great battle, is 567 feet high—the tallest monument in the United States.

Here are buried Light Horse Harry Lee, of the Revolution, and Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson of the Civil War.

Here was born Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the grain-reaper.

Here were born the father and mother of Abraham Lincoln; and here are buried other ancestors of Lincoln.

Here was the scene of John Brown's raid, and of his execution.

Here lies Edmund Randolph, Washington's Secretary of State.

Here lived and experimented James Rumsey, inventor of the steam-boat. West Virginia has erected a tall monument in his honor on the bank of the Potomac. Rumsey was also the inventor of the water-tube boiler, which is regarded by many as the greatest invention by an American in the 18th Century.

Here was born the fourth governor of Ohio, named Worthington. Sheridan's famous ride was up this valley.

Here lived and died John M. Brooke, designer of the "*Merrimac*", which became famous in the fight with the "*Monitor*".

Nine governors of Virginia lived in this valley.

Here lived for years Matthew Fontaine Maury, "the Pathfinder of the Seas".

Here also lived for years George Matthews, afterward Governor of Georgia. Here was born Felix Grundy, Attorney General in Van Buren's Cabinet. General Washington represented Frederick County in this valley in the Virginia Legislature.

The first County in the United States named in honor of Washington was my native County in this valley. The first monument to Washington was erected near Boonesboro in this valley.

My great-grandfather, James Smith Hammond, named for Colonel James Smith of the Black Boys of the Conococheague, lived on the Virginia side of the Potomac, nearly opposite the mouth of the Conococheague. He was a descendant of William Hammond, of the Saint Mary's Colony of Maryland of 1634. His wife, my great-grandmother, was a daughter of Richard Simmons, who was in the Revolution from Shepherdstown, Virginia. He was a member of Captain Hugh Stephenson's Company. That group of men was the first from south of the Potomac to join Washington at Cambridge. My great-great-grandfather said they were drawn up in line in front of Washington. As he passed along the line shaking hands with the men the tears were running down his cheeks, and he called every man by name.

Richard Simmons of the Shepherdstown Company was a descendant of Richard Simmons of the Jamestown, Virginia, Colony of 1607. My great-grandmother Hammond was thirteen years old when her father came home from the Revolution. She lived to my time and died at the age of 103. She told my father many things about the Black Boys. Their plantation was purchased in 1792 from Charles Washington, of

Charlestown, brother of General Washington. The first settler at the mouth of the Conococheague was Charles Friend, a relative of my mother. His father was the first settler at the mouth of the Antietam. Colonel John Miller, of our family, was a colonial Indian fighter, and in 1669 built a stone fort and log house at Sharpsburg, on the Antietam. They are still standing and occupied. Eight of my ancestors from this region were on the American side in the Revolution.

When General Robert E. Lee was on his way to and from Gettysburg, he crossed the Potomac at the mouth of the Conococheague.

In closing, I want to leave one thought with you: Was it only a mere coincidence that Antietam and Gettysburg (the two major battles of the Civil War) were fought near each other in this beautiful valley, between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghenies?

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MILLER.

The Sunday Star, Washington, D. C., February 23, 1941

DISTRICT S. A. R. HEARS STORY OF 'FIRST REBEL' OF REVOLUTION

William A. Miller Tells of Col. James Smith's
Career on Frontier

The career of Col. James Smith, "first rebel of the American Revolution," was outlined yesterday at a Washington Birthday meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution by William Alexander Miller, retired Library of Congress executive and descendant of Maryland and Pennsylvania frontiersmen.

Col. Smith settled on the Conococheague River, a tributary of the Potomac, and became a leader of pioneers who objected, Mr. Miller said, to the profitable trade in scalping knives, tomahawks, muskets, powder and lead which certain British-supported merchants were conducting with the Indians.

In his youth Col. Smith was one of the frontiersmen who accompanied British Gen. Braddock on his ill-fated campaign against a French and Indian stronghold in Pennsylvania.

SETTLED IN MARYLAND

When he left he settled in Maryland, where the whites were being slaughtered or driven from their homes by bands of marauding savages armed with weapons obtained from merchants protected by the British troops.

He organized the "Conococheague Black-Face Boys," a fighting group of frontiersmen who blacked their faces

with charcoal and wore Indian clothing and moccasins.

The British had sent a detachment of the famous Black Watch regiment to Fort Loudon in Pennsylvania, Mr. Miller said, to protect the important trade route.

Several hundred of the "Black-Face Boys" forced the garrison to run up a white flag, and the Black Watch guardsmen marched out between the long rifles of the frontiersmen.

Col. Smith set fire to bales of trade goods with his flint and steel, and saw large stores of blankets, knives, tomahawks, muskets and ammunition ruined by the flames.

The early Americans, he said, had adopted this means of preventing the scalping or murder of their wives and children.

This occurred, Mr. Miller said, several years before the Boston tea party.

RAIDED BRITISH OUTPOSTS

When the Revolutionary War broke out, Mr. Miller continued, Col. Smith gathered a group of frontiersmen and raided British outposts. Refused in his offer to organize his own regiment, the rugged individualist lost interest in the war and moved South to spend the rest of his life in the wilds of Tennessee.

